

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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UNCLAS VIENNA 5034

NASA PASS DR. COOPER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UN

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: USSR'S SAGDEEV LECTURES ON
SPACE IN VIENNA

1. SUMMARY. PROMINENT SOVIET SCIENTIST REVIEWS NEXT TWENTY
YEARS OF POSSIBLE ASTRONOMICAL EXPLORATION USING SPACE
TECHNIQUES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN EVENING SEMINAR SPONSORED BY AUSTRIAN SOLAR AND
SPACE RESEARCH AGENCY, PROF. R. SAGDEEV PRESENTED A
75 MINUTE LECTURE TO AUDIENCE COMPRISING IN MAJOR
PROPORTION DELEGATES TO UN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE.
LECTURES ARE HELD IN ROOM ADJACENT TO UNOSC MEETING
ROOM AND ARE OPEN TO PUBLIC, BUT LIGHTLY ATTENDED.
FEWER THAN 100 ATTENDED JUNE 21.

3. LECTURES ARE INTRODUCED BY J. ORTNER OF AUSTRIAN
SPACE AND SOLAR ENERGY AGENCY. HE EXPLAINED THAT SCOPE
OF LECTURE SERIES IS 1980-2000 AND DOES NOT REPEAT NOT
CONTEMPLATE PRESENTLY APPROVED PROGRAMS. ROY GIBSON OF ESA
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TO SPEAK JUNE 23 ON "MULTINATIONAL COOPERATION IN MAJOR
MANNED SPACE PROJECTS AFTER THE SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM."

4. COOPER (NASA, DIR. GSFC) LECTURE SCHEDULED TUESDAY, JUNE
28 ON "APPLIED SPACE RESEARCH YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW."

5. PROF. YASH PAL (INDIA) WILL SPEAK JUNE 30 ON "SPACE

PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

UAGDEEV LECTURED IN ENGLISH USING ABOUT 25 SLIDES OF VARYING QUALITY; CAPTION LANGUAGES VARIED FROM RUSSIAN TO FRENCH AND ENGLISH. ABOUT 10 SLIDES WERE NASA PRODUCED; FOUR OF VIKING ORBITER ORIGIN, TWO OF VIKING LANDER ORIGIN, THREE OF SOLAR IR AND VISIBLE LIGHT SUN AND SOLAR CORONA IMAGES, AND ONE PIONEER 10 PICTURE OF JUPITER.

7. SAGDEEV REMAINED EXCLUSIVELY ON SCIENTIFIC ASTRONOMICAL ASPECTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE PROGRAMS. HE SPOKE OF LARGE SPACE TELESCOPES, A VENUS LANDER EMPLOYING A BOLLOON IN DESCENT PHASE, AND PROPOSED (SIC) SOLAR SAILS AS A MEANS OF POWERING INTERPLANETARY FLIGHT AND POSSIBLY ACHIEVING COMET RENDEZVOUS IN THE FUTURE. DESCRIBED POSSIBLE VLBI EXPERIMENT WITH EARTH/MOON BASE LEG FOR FUTURE RESEARCH IN SPACE. HE INCLUDED BRIEF REFERENCE TO SPACE ASTRONOMY RESEARCH IN THE 1960'S, ELABORATED ON PROGRAMS OF THE 70'S BUT PRINCIPALLY SPOKE OF PROSPECTS FOR THE 1980'S. IN CONCLUDING HE NOTED THAT THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) IS AN INTERESTING SUBJECT BUT NOT YET ONE THAT IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. HE DESCRIBED SETI AS THE MOST SPECULATIVE OF RESEARCH AREAS, LARGELY THE PROVINCE OF SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS.

8. COMMENT: THE PRESENTATION WAS VERY NEUTRAL POLITICALLY; NASA SLIDES WERE CREDITED AS SUCH; THERE WAS NO EFFORT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PORTRAY COMPETITION OR TO DRAW COMPARISONS BETWEEN PROGRAMS. THE LECTURE PRESENTED A SURVEY OF SPACE ASTRONOMY RESEARCH INCLUDING ALL AVAILABLE SOURCE AND VISUAL MATERIALS FOR A LAY AUDIENCE. ALTHOUGH INVITED, NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED BY AUDIENCE. LECTURES COME AT END OF LONG DAY AND SHOULD BE SHORTER AND MOVE MORE QUICKLY THAN THIS ONE DID.MEEHAN

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